



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : 10/726,305

Applicants : Hidenori ONO et al.

Filed : December 1, 2003

For : PROCESS FOR PRODUCING AN
ARTIFICIAL BONE MODEL AND
AN ARTIFICIAL BONE MODEL
PRODUCED BY THE PROCESS

Art Unit : 3714

Examiner : Kurt FERNSTROM

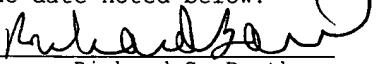
Docket No. : 03719/HG

Customer No.: 01933

Confirm. No.: 3097

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify this correspondence
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Envelope addressed to:
MAIL STOP AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents,
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
on the date noted below.


Attorney: Richard S. Barth

Dated: January 10, 2005

In the event that this Paper is late
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extension of time is not filed
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

ATTENTION: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

S I R :

Submitted herewith are the following:

(1) A copy of the Combined Search and Examination Report
under Sections 17 and 18(3) from the United Kingdom Patent Office
dated March 31, 2004 for the corresponding United Kingdom patent
application;

(2) A copy of DE 100 55 465, which was cited in the

01/14/2005 WASFAM1 00000023 10726305
aforesaid Combined Search and Examination Report;

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(3) A copy of an Examination Report under Section 18(3) from the United Kingdom Patent Office dated December 9, 2004 containing an English-language translation of DE 100 55 465;

(4) Form PTO/SB/08A, which identifies all the publications cited in the aforesaid Combined Search and Examination Report, including three U.S. patents; and

(5) Check for \$180.

Applicants have informed the undersigned that claim 8 in the corresponding United Kingdom application corresponds to claims 10 or 11 in the above-identified U.S. application.

In reply to the citation of DE 100 55 465 in the aforesaid March 31, 2004 UK Combined Search and Examination Report, applicants provided the following comments:

DE 100 55 465 discloses the preparation of a bone replacement material or artificial bone implant, but does not suggest the preparation of an artificial bone model. The artificial bone model according to the present invention requires that the sinterable powder material is so selected that, after sintering, the sintered material when cut closely replicates a natural bone when cut. Thus, the artificial bone model produced according to the invention can be used not only to demonstrate the shape features of natural bone structures, but also can be

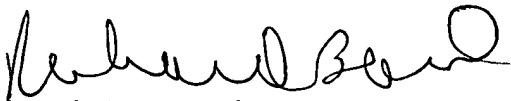
used to experiment with or practice surgical procedures involving cutting, without the need to operate on naturally originating bone, and is therefore useful for training purposes, for example, before actual bone surgery on a patient. This is made possible by the feature that the process of the invention provides an artificial bone model when cut is similar to a natural bone when cut. This feature is not disclosed or suggested by DE 100 55 465, which relates to bone replacement material and implants. As discussed in the present application, the properties required of artificial bone replacement material and implants, such as those according to

DE 100 55 465, are different from those required of an artificial bone model that can be used for practicing or experimenting with respect to surgical procedures.

It is respectfully requested that an initialed copy of the enclosed Form PTO/SB/08A be returned to the undersigned to

indicate that the publications listed therein have been considered and made of record.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard S. Barth
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RSB/ddf

Encs.: (1) Copy of UK Search and Examination Report
dated March 31, 2004
(2) Copy of UK Examination Report dated
December 9, 2004
(3) Copy of DE 100 55 465
(4) Form PTO/SB/08A
(5) Check for \$180

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PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

<p>Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO</p> <p>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</p> <p><i>JAN 12 2005</i></p> <p><i>PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE</i></p>		Application Number	10/726,305
		Filed	December 1, 2003
		First Named Inventor	Hidenori ONO
		Group Art Unit	3714
		Examiner Name	Kurt FERNSTROM
1 of 1	Attorney Docket Number	03719/HG	

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam. Inits*	Cite No ¹	Document Number	Kind Code ²	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant Portion
		6,215,093	B1	MEINERS et al.	04-10-2001	
		5,490,962	B1	CIMA et al.	02-13-1996	
		5,076,869		BOURELL et al.	12-31-1991	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam. Inits*	Cite No ¹	Offc ³	Document Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant Portion	T ⁶
		DE	100 55 465	A1	BLZ Bayerisches Laserzentrum Gemeinnützige Forschungsgesellschaft mbH	5-23-2002		*

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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* EXAMINER: Initial if document considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Place a check here if English translation is attached.

DATE MAILED: January 10, 2005

*ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ABSTRACT AND ENGLISH-LANGUAGE TRANSLATION ENCLOSED